

# INFORMATION REPORT      INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The promotions of A. I. Mikoyan, M. Z. Saburov, and M. G. Pervukhin to First Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers were dictated by the desire to make A. P. Zavenyagin, V. A. Kucherenko, P. P. Lobanov, and M. V. Khrunichev Deputy Ministers of the Council of Ministers. The first three, all members of the Presidium of the Party, were raised to differentiate their level of importance from that of the Deputy Ministers. This does not represent a "payoff" to them for any part they may have had in Malenkov's downfall. Rather, since they are all extremely efficient economic organizers and executives, it would be difficult to find replacements for them and Bulganin must depend upon them for help in running the economic machine. Bulganin is broadening his administrative base by promoting these men.
2. The four men made Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers were chosen by Bulganin in conjunction with Khrushchev. Zavenyagin, formerly in the MVD and probably in charge of the construction of atomic energy installations, will take Beriia's place as head of the First Chief Directorate attached to the Council of Ministers and will, in effect, run the atomic energy program. Kucherenko may have been brought to Moscow by Khrushchev at the time the latter went from the Ukraine to Moscow. Lobanov will probably have overall charge of agricultural matters, thus making Benediktov, Kozlov, and Skvortsov subordinate to him. Khrunichev will probably have overall charge of aviation and defense industry matters.
3. The elevation of these men, in view of their previous connections with Bulganin and Khrushchev, strengthens the position of both leaders. The weakness of Malenkov's position is indicated by the fact that he is the only member of the Party Presidium concerned with economic matters who is not a First Deputy Chairman.

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On the other hand, pains were taken to elevate Mikoyan, Saburov, and Pervukhin, perhaps so that they would not object to the bringing up of the other men by Bulganin and Khrushchev. By the end of the year, Malenkov's ministry will be criticized for failures and Malenkov himself will fade further and further into the background.

4. Kaganovich is probably in charge of transportation matters, and at the same time he is concerned with supply matters. Previously Kaganovich had been in charge of Gossnab, the State Committee for Material-Technical Supply of the National Economy, the function of which is to insure that scarce materials are properly allocated.

1.  Comment. On 2 March 1955 Kozlov was relieved as Minister of State Farms and was replaced by Benediktov.

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